

HOUSE BILL 1531  
By Winningham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary  
financial assistance from state lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

( ) "Nontraditional student" means a student who enters a postsecondary institution offering associate or baccalaureate degrees for the first time after reaching twenty-five (25) years of age;

( ) "Sophomore student" means a student at a postsecondary institution who has attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours or more, but less than forty-eight (48) semester hours;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-905(b)(2), is amended by deleting the last sentence and by substituting instead the sentence:

The provisions of this subsection (b) shall not apply to those students applying for Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grants or to nontraditional students applying for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as a sophomore.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-905, is amended by adding the following language as new subsection (c):

(c) A nontraditional student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as a sophomore only if such student enters a postsecondary institution offering associate or baccalaureate degrees for the first time after July 1, 2005.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 49-4-9\_\_.

(a) A nontraditional student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as a sophomore student, if the student:

- (1) Is not ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;
- (2) Meets the requirements of subsections (a) and (c) of § 49-4-905;
- (3) Attends an eligible postsecondary institution or a postsecondary institution located outside of Tennessee that is accredited by a regional accrediting association without a Tennessee HOPE scholarship and attempts at least twenty-four (24) semester hours, but not more than forty-eight (48) semester hours;
- (4) Achieves a cumulative grade point of 2.75 for all semester hours attempted prior to application for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship;
- (5) Is admitted to and enrolls in an eligible postsecondary institution; and
- (6) Makes application for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

(b) To continue to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, a nontraditional student shall meet the requirements of § 49-4-911. A HOPE scholarship awarded under this section shall be subject to the provisions of § 49-4-913.

(c) No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be made under this section.

SECTION 5. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.

